

by the Secretary that consists of approximately 22 acres and is located at 18296 Elgin Avenue, Dos Palos, California, to be used as a farm school for the education and training of students and beginning farmers regarding farming. Any such conveyance shall be final with no future liability accruing to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) **CONSIDERATION.**—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the transferee shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the parcel conveyed under subsection (a).

(c) **ALTERNATIVE TRANSFEREE.**—At the request of the Dos Palos Ag Boosters, the Secretary may make the conveyance authorized by subsection (a) to the Dos Palos School District.

(d) **DETERMINATION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION.**—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the parcel to be conveyed under subsection (a). The exact acreage and legal description of the parcels shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary. The cost of any such survey shall be borne by the transferee.

(e) **ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with the conveyance under this section as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] and the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH].

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we expect this to be very short, very quick. The bill as introduced by the gentleman from California [Mr. CONDIT] on September 10 is a noncontroversial land sale that has the support of the local community, the Department of Agriculture, the Democrats and the Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following letter for the RECORD:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 1996.

Hon. PAT ROBERTS,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed H.R. 4041, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of unused agricultural land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters for use as a farm school. The bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on September 10, 1996. Based on information provided by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), which owns the land, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4041 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Because the bill could affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply; but any such effect would be negligible.

The bill would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey a parcel of about 22 acres of land in Dos Palos, California, to the Dos Palos Ag Boosters. As consideration for the conveyance, the transferee would pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the fair market value of the parcel, as determined by the Secretary. The transferee would also be required to pay the cost of a survey to determine the exact acreage and legal description.

According to the FSA, the land is worth less than \$100,000. The agency acquired the parcel through liquidation and then leased the land out. That lease has since expired. Under new procedures, FSA now is required to sell such land at its appraised value (if possible) upon expiration of a lease, so this land would likely be sold in the near future under current law. CBO estimates that receipts from the sale of this land would not be significantly different under H.R. 4041.

H.R. 4041 contains no private-sector or intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-4) and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The staff contact is Craig Jagger.

Sincerely,

JUNE E. O'NEILL, *Director*.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank Committee Chairman ROBERTS and Subcommittee Chairman ALLARD in addition to Ranking Members DE LA GARZA and JOHNSON for expediting this bill through the committee and to the House floor, for consideration at this time.

This bill is simple and straightforward.

H.R. 4041 gives USDA the authority to sell 22 acres of land in my congressional district to a nonprofit organization or alternatively, to the Dos Palos School District in Dos Palos, CA.

This land will be used to establish a farm school for the education and training of students and beginning farmers regarding farming.

Under the farm school proposal, high school and middle school students will be farming the ground under the advisement of the school Agriculture advisor.

The students will be taught all aspects of modern agriculture practices, including irrigation and conservation methods, integrated pest management, agricultural marketing and administration.

In addition, all proceeds from the farm school will allow students to purchase their own equipment and supplies for use at the site.

Finally, not only would this project benefit beginning farmers, it would also assure that the land remain in an agricultural use.

This legislation has the support of the local school district and the community of Dos Palos, in addition to the USDA at the local, State and Federal levels as a very worthwhile project to help young beginning farmers get started.

I hope that all of the members will join me in supporting H.R. 4041 and I urge the House to approve the bill at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for its generosity in allowing us to do this at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is 22 acres of land, it will be sold at market value and any other provisions that the Secretary of Agriculture deems appropriate.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, this bill will give some kids a chance to learn how to farm the old-fashioned way: through hard work and sweat. They will work hard, planting their crops, watering them, guarding them against the many threats faced by all farmers—the weather, disease, insects. And they will feel the satisfaction of bringing in the harvest. This bill will help these students learn to appreciate the hard work that goes into producing our Nation's food, and it may even get a few of them off to a good start as farmers.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4041.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

RESTORATION OF CERTAIN POW/MIA AUTHORITIES APPLICABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4000, to amend title 10, United States Code, to restore the provisions of chapter 76 of that title (relating to missing persons) as in effect before the amendments made by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4000

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RESTORATION OF MISSING PERSONS AUTHORITIES APPLICABLE TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AS IN EFFECT BEFORE ENACTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997.

(a) **APPLICABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES.**—(1) Section 1501 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(c) **COVERED PERSONS.**—Section 1502 of this title applies in the case of the following persons:

“(1) Any member of the armed forces on active duty who becomes involuntarily absent as a result of a hostile action, or under circumstances